**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Complete 2 of the 3 parts. If you complete all 3 you can receive up to 5 points extra credit. Due at the end of class today.**

**Part 1**

**Introduction**   
The rapid growth of industrialization in the United States of the 1880s created an intense need for labor. The flood of tens of thousands of people— many of them immigrants— to northeastern cities created a housing problem of major proportions. Landlords, rushing to realize quick profits, persisted in subdividing their apartments into ever smaller units, forcing the poor into increasingly overcrowded living conditions.  
  
In the late 1880s, Jacob Riis began writing articles for the New York Sun that described the realities of life in New York City's slums. Use the following websites to complete the questions.  
  
**Questions:**

1. Who was Jacob Riis and why did he decide to document the lives of the poor?
2. Explain some of the conditions described in How the Other Half Lives.
3. What point do you think Riis was trying to make when he chose the title for his book?
4. Why did city government officials allow these conditions to continue?

<http://www.thirteen.org/tenement/eagle.html>

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~ma01/davis/photography/riis/riis.html>

<http://www.richmondhillhistory.org/jriis.html>

**Part 2**

Imagine it's 1888. New York City. The Lower East Side is the most densely populated place on Earth: Block after block of tenements house the working-poor immigrants of the city, including Italians, Irish, Germans, Jews, Czechs and Chinese.

Imagine the darkness of an unlit corridor in one of those tenements, a corridor that opens onto windowless rooms, 10 feet square, where entire families live and might even work — sewing, or rolling cigars.

Out of the darkness, a door opens. A man with a Danish accent leads a team of amateur photographers, who are accompanied by a policeman. They position their camera on a tripod and ignite a mixture of magnesium and potassium chlorate powder. A flash explodes, illuminating their squalor.

A picture is worth a thousand words. Choose one of Riis’s photographs and write the story behind it.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/wilson/sfeature/sf_pov_03.html>

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~ma01/davis/photography/images/riisphotos/slideshow1.html>

**Part 3**

Is America a better place today than it was in 1890 when Jacob Riis published his work? Use the following websites to compare and contrast life for the poor of today to the lives documented by Riis.

<http://www.inourownbackyard.us/galleries/children/children.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/1991/09/29/magazine/new-york-in-the-nineties.html>